



A N  
A C C O U N T  
O F T H E  
*Establishment of the Commissioners*  
F O R T H E  
R e l i e f o f P o o r P R O S E L Y T E S.



ПЕРВЫЙ АЛ

БИБЛІО

ІСТИННОСТЬ СВЯТОГО ПІСЛАННИКА ПАВЛА

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A N  
ACC O U N T  
*England* OF THE  
*Establishment of the Commissioners*  
For the Relief of  
POOR PROSELYTES:  
W I T H  
An ABSTRACT of their PROCEEDINGS  
from the 30th of April, 1717, to the  
30th of April, 1718.



L O N D O N:  
Printed in the Year 1718.

THE JOURNAL

OF THE

COLONIAL

LIBRARY

BOOK

WITH

RECORDS OF DOCUMENTS

OF THE

COLONIAL

LIBRARY





AN  
 ACCOUNT.  
 OF  
*The Establishment of the Com-  
 missioners for the Relief of Poor  
 PROSELYTES, &c.*



THE want of a Regular Method in Great-Britain, for relieving sincere Converts from the Church of Rome, has been too justly complained of ever since the Reformation. And indeed the frequent Convulsions, which this Protestant Church and Nation has been thrown into in every Reign since, may have been too much the occasion of drawing off the Attention of our Prelates and Others, however Zealous against the Idolatries and other dangerous Errors of the Church of Rome, from Providing for the Reception of those, who shall from Time to Time forsake its Communion.

But the Happy Settlement of the Crown in a Protestant Line, exclusive of Papists for ever, leaving

ving us more at Liberty to take under our Care, the providing for Converts from *Popery*, in like manner as has been so very laudably done in several other Protestant Churches: It has been thought a suitable Return to Providence, after our own Conversion, now to think of Strengthening our Brethren; And it seems to be a more seasonable Undertaking at this time, not only because there is now a more general Disposition, among many Learned and other Considerable Persons, in Popish Countries, to embrace the Reformation; But the Eyes of such throughout Europe are turned upon this Happy Church, under its present Protestant Settlement, as their most Desirable and Safe *Asylum*.

In every Generation since the Reformation, it has pleased GOD to open the Eyes of many Votaries to the Romish Superstitions, and to bring them to such a Sense of the Idolatries they were bred in, as to become shining Examples of Piety, and to create in them a just Esteem for the invaluable Privileges acquired to the Christian Church, by the glorious Reformers of it from Papal Darkness.

But such is the Misfortune of several of those who have been happily convinced of the Romish Errors, that some of them were even compelled, for want of Bread, to make their Peace with the Church of *Rome*, after they had publickly, and in a very solemn Manner, renounced her Errors: Which demonstrates, that among the many Checks the Reformation has received of late Years, the want of a Fund, to Relieve such as, for pure Conscience, forsake the Romish Communion, to embrace the Protestant Faith, is none of the least.

It is hard to imagine how a Person, forsaking the Religion of all his Friends (and by that means, not only putting himself quite out of their Favour, but exasperating them against him in the highest Degree) can continue in our Communion, without very extraordinary Assistance from above, unless he be received by us with Kindness and Commiseration.

AND it is yet much more difficult to conceive, how a Person, in those Circumstances, coming from a Foreign Country, amongst strange People, can be able to provide a Maintenance for Himself and Family, whilst he remains not only ignorant of the Language, but destitute of Friends, and all other possible Means to get into Business; at the same time, that he is subjected to all the Malice and subtil Circumventions of those who bitterly Hate and Persecute him on account of his having forsaken their Communion.

THE Bountiful Provision which the *Romish* Church makes, to gain over Profelytes to their Faith, is an Example that ought so far to be regarded by Protestants, as to induce them to preserve from perishing thro' Want such Converts, who having sincerely abandoned their Errors, and embraced the Purity of the Gospel as professed in these Kingdoms, are destitute of the Necessaries of Life, and unable to Support themselves; and the Difference being so wide between a True and an Erroneous Faich, a Pure and Corrupt Worship of GOD; it may appear to Protestants, not unreasonable *ab hoste doceri*, and to turn against the Papists their own Offensive Weapons.

THE Pious and Charitable Endeavours of his Grace the Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and the Lord Bishop of *London*, seem to demonstrate, that a good Spirit from above is at present animating

mating the Hearts of Godly People to put such Methods into Practice, for promoting the true Christian Faith, as is most agreeable to Reason, and the sincere Wishes of every truly Zealous and Honest Protestant.

AND had not the Wisdom of those excellent Prelates put them on finding out an Expedient for laying a Foundation towards establishing a Charity of so extensive Use to the Protestant Religion, the ardent Desires of many devout Souls had still wanted the Gratification at present afforded, by the beginning of an Undertaking so truly Noble and Generous.

IN order therefore to assist these Objects of Charity, who have been hitherto unprovided, till some other means could be found, it was proposed to charge the Fund of 15000 *l. per Annum*, granted out of the Civil List for the Relief of the poor French Protestants, with the Sum of 400 *l. per Annum*, rather than any longer defer beginning a Work, which, it was evident, would tend to the Honour and Advancement of our Holy Religion.

AND his Majesty having been graciously pleased, upon an humble Application to him by the above-mentioned Prelates, to consent that the said Sum of 400 *l.* might be deducted out of the aforesaid 15000 *l.* as a Foundation for a Fund towards the Relief of Converts of any Nation from the Church of Rome; their said Lordships were pleased, in Conjunction with the Right Honourable the two Lords Chief Justices, pursuant to his Majesty's gracious Intentions, to authorize by a Commission bearing Date the 24th of April, 1717, a certain Number of Persons, both of Clergy and Laity, to distribute the same to such as should appear to be truly worthy of it, and

Objects

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Objects of Charity within the Rules prescribed in their Commission; and at the same time did empower them to invite other Persons to their Assistance, as well as to receive the Benevolence of any private well-disposed Persons towards this truly Christian Work, superadded to the Royal Bounty for this charitable Purpose.

*The RULES prescribed in the said Commission are as follows, viz.*

I.

‘ **T**HAT the Commissioners shall meet once a Month on such a Day, and at such a Place as they, or the greatest Part of them (not being less than five in the whole) shall think to be most proper and convenient.

II.

‘ **T**HAT no Commissioner shall receive any private Applications, or make any private Promises to any Profelytes, but shall direct all such Persons as shall make any Request to them, to come to the said Publick Meetings of the Commissioners, where their Case shall be publicly examined, and it shall be in common agreed what is most fitting to be done for them.

III.

‘ **T**HAT no Profelyte shall be admitted to receive any Benefit from this Charity, but such as are at this time in *England*, or, having been here formerly, have been forced to leave the Kingdom for want of Subsistance, or shall hereafter come directly from their own Country wherein they lived whilst they were of the *Roman Communion*, excluding all such as have had any Settlements in any other Protestant Country since their Conversion, and have left such their Settlements since this Establishment.

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## IV.

‘ AND whereas the Moneys hitherto advanced for this charitable Work will not reach to the Maintenance of Families, no Person shall be the more considered for having a Family, unless upon some extraordinary Occasion, which shall move the Commissioners for that time only so to do; and the said Commissioners shall not continue to assist any of the Proselytes who shall marry, without having previously acquainted them with such their Intentions, and obtained their Consent.

## V.

‘ THAT no Proselyte shall be assisted any longer than till he be in a Condition to provide for himself, or that he shall by the Commissioners, or any others, be offered a Mean for his subsisting without this Charity.

## VI.

‘ THAT the Commissioners shall be enabled at their Monthly Meeting to add any other Persons, who shall be judged proper to be join’d with themselves in the Distribution of this Charity.

## VII.

‘ THAT the better to discover the Merits or Demerits of the Proselytes who shall at any time come over, the Commissioners shall be enabled to choose Corresponding Members out of the most eminent Protestants in Foreign Parts.

## VIII.

‘ THAT the Commissioners shall be enabled to make such Rules for the carrying on their pious Ends, as they shall think convenient: Provided always, that no Person shall be chosen into this Commission, nor any such Rules made,

made, but by the Votes of five at least of the Commissioners.

The Commissioners appointed by their said Lordships, are these:

**T H E Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Carlisle,**  
now of Derry in Ireland.

**T he Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Norwich.**

**T he Right Honourable the Lord Percival.**

**T he Honourable the Marquis Du Quesne.**

**T he Honourable Mr. Bonet, Minister from his Prussian  
Majesty.**

**T he Reverend Mr. Hill.**

**T he Reverend Mr. Dolben.**

**Sir John Philipps, Bart.**

**C olonel Savary.**

**T he Reverend Dr. Lloyd.**

**T he Reverend Dr. Bray.**

**T he Reverend Dr. Caesar.**

**T he Reverend Dr. Wilcocks.**

**T he Reverend Dr. Astrey.**

**D r. Silvester, M. D.**

**R obert Hales, Esq;**

**M r. D'Egulhon.**

**M r. De Tudert.**

**M r. De Fonvive.**

**J ohn Chamberlayne, Esq;**

**W hitlocke Bulstrode, Esq;**

**D aniel Dolins, Esq;**

**C harles Talbot, Esq;**

**T he Reverend Mr. St. Dennis.**

**T he Reverend Mr. LaChapelle.**

**T he Reverend Mr. Durant.**

**T he Commissioners, in pursuance of this  
Commission, begun to meet at White-Hall, Tues-**

**B 2 day**

day the 30th of April, 1717; and after appointing the necessary Officers, considered of several other Regulations fit to be observed in executing their Commission, which, tho' made at several times in the Course of their Proceedings, are here exhibited in one view.

ORDERS relating to the Commissioners in general.

I.

THAT the general Meeting of this Society shall be upon the first Wednesday in every Month; and if it should happen that there be a Meeting of the Governours of Queen Ann's Bounty, on that Day, then the Commissioners for the Proselytes shall meet the following Day.

II.

THAT all the Members of this Society shall contribute a certain yearly Sum towards the Support of the poor Proselytes; and for the future none shall be admitted Members of this Society, without subscribing a certain annual Sum, to be paid during their Stay in the said Society.

III.

THAT there shall be a Rotation of Chairmen; and the first or senior Member, as they stand in the Commission, or are elected afterwards, of such as are present, shall take the Chair at the respective Meetings of the Society or Committee thereof.

IV.

THAT the Chairman, at every Meeting of the Society or Committee, shall take Care that the Debates be regular and without Heat, that

‘ that no Member interrupt another, and that  
‘ he who speaks first be heard first.

## V.

‘ THAT when any Gentleman is proposed  
‘ for a Commissioner, he stand proposed two  
‘ several Meetings; and then, if it be thought  
‘ fit to proceed, two of the Board be desired to  
‘ enquire the Character of the Person proposed,  
‘ whether he be of a sober Life, and charitably  
‘ disposed; after whose Report the Board may  
‘ proceed, by Balloting, to choose or refuse such  
‘ Person, and that no Gentleman be appriz'd of  
‘ his being proposed, till after his Election.

## VI.

‘ THAT at every general Meeting, before the  
‘ Society proceed on Business, the following  
‘ Prayer be used, viz.

*Almighty God, who shewest to them that be in  
Error the Light of thy Truth, to the intent that they  
may return into the Way of Righteousness: Grant unto  
all them that are admitted into the Fellowship of Christ's  
Religion, that they may eschew those Things that are  
contrary to their Profession, and follow all such Things  
as are agreeable to the same, through our Lord Jesus  
Christ. Amen.*

‘ AND before the Society rise, the Prayer  
‘ following, viz.

*O Merciful God, who hast made all Men, and hatest  
nothing that thou hast made, nor wouldest the  
Death of a Sinner, but rather that he should be convert-  
ed and live: Have mercy upon all Jews, Turks, Infidels  
and Hereticks, and take from them all Ignorance,  
Hardness of Heart, and Contempt of thy Word; and  
so fetch them home (blessed Lord!) to thy Flock, that  
they*

they may be saved among the Remnant of the true Israelites, and be made one Fold under one Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end Amen.

‘ And that if no Clergyman be present, the Chairman read the same.

### VII.

‘ THAT when any thing is proposed for a standing Rule, it be proposed at two several Meetings, and not allowed to be such, till it has had the Approbation of a third Meeting.

### VIII.

‘ THAT no Recommendation in Favour of any Profelyte, be received from any Person who is not a Subscriber or Benefactor.

## ORDERS relating to the Committee.

### I.

‘ THAT a Committee, compos'd of three or more of the Commissioners, shall meet upon the last *Wednesday* in every Month, at nine a Clock in the Morning, at *Whitehall*, to prepare a Report of all Matters that have been consider'd in the several Meetings of the Precedent Committees from Time to Time, in order to be laid before the General Meeting upon the first *Wednesday* in every Month; and all that come are to have Voices.

### II.

‘ THAT a Committee be appointed Monthly, consisting of Seven of the Commissioners, by a Rotation, according to their Seniority upon the List, taking both Columns together (the Lords Spiritual

‘ Spiritual and Temporal Members of Parliament,  
‘ and Gentlemen that Live out the Bills of Mor-  
‘ tality, excepted) and that no others be Sum-  
‘ mon’d, but that any of the Commissioners my  
‘ attend if they please, and have Voices, and  
‘ that any three be a *Quorum*.

## III.

‘ **T**HAT when any extraordinary Occurrence  
‘ shall happen, deserving the Consideration of a  
‘ General Meeting, it shall be in the Power of  
‘ the Committee in such Case, to give Directions  
‘ for Summoning a General Meeting, although  
‘ they should stand Adjourn’d to a further Day.

## IV.

‘ **T**HAT at every General Meeting, when  
‘ three Members are present, they be a Com-  
‘ mittee to prepare Business for the General  
‘ Meeting.

## ORDERS relating to the Treasurer.

## I.

‘ **T**HAT no Order for the Payment of Mo-  
‘ ney, shall be accepted by the Treasurer, nor  
‘ allowed upon the Audit of his Accounts, un-  
‘ less such Order be Sign’d by the Chairman and  
‘ Secretary.

## II.

‘ **T**HAT the Treasurer do lay before the  
‘ Board, at every Monthly Meeting, an Account  
‘ of what Money remains in his Hands.

## III.

‘ **T**HAT the Treasurer’s Accounts be Audited  
‘ twice Yearly, in the Months of *January* and  
‘ *July*; and that three Auditors be appointed  
‘ half-yearly for that Purpose.

## ORDERS

## ORDERS relating to the Secretary.

## I.

THAT the Minutes of every General Meeting and of every Committee, shall be read at the End of each Meeting, and perus'd and sign'd by the Chairman, before they be entred into the respective Journals.

## II.

THAT two Copies of the Minutes of the General Meeting be made, and sent respectively to his Grace the Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and the Bishop of *London*, after each General Meeting.

## III.

THAT the Secretary, upon any Member's desire, or he himself, if he see Occasion, shall have Power to Summon a Committee.

## IV.

THAT all the Standing Orders be read at every Quarterly Meeting; *viz.* the first *Wednesdays in May, August, November and February*.

## V.

THAT the Secretary attend his Grace the Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and the Lord Bishop of *London*, once a Quarter, with the Books of the Society, in order to acquaint them with their Proceedings in the Trust committed to them.

ORDERS

## ORDERS relating to Proselytes.

## I.

THAT no Proselyte shall partake of this Beneficence, but such Persons of whose Life and Conversation the Commissioners, or their Committee, are entirely satisfied.

## II.

THAT no Proselyte shall partake of this Beneficence, that hath a Pension or Allowance, from any other Person or Persons to the value of Ten Pounds *per Annum*, unless the Commissioners, upon good Considerations and extraordinary Cases, shall order otherwise.

## III.

THAT any Proselyte in Orders, who shall come over and put on the Gown, without the leave of the Ordinary, and first acquainting the Commissioners, shall be excluded from any Assistance.

## IV.

THAT no Proselyte, who hath been in these Kingdoms before the Repeal of the Edict of Nantz, in 1685, be admitted to any share in this Charity, except upon very extraordinary Occasions.

## V.

THAT no Proselyte ought to be assisted by the Commissioners, but such Persons only as have been actually converted from the Popish to the Protestant Religion.

## VI.

THAT every Proselyte shall be required to declare ingenuously to the Commissioners or their Committee, whether he hath any Pension, Salary or Allowance whatever, and what they

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amount

amount to; and if it should be afterwards discovered, that he has not declared the plain Truth, he shall from that time become incapable of ever receiving any manner of Assistance from this Society.

## VII.

THAT no certain annual Pension shall be allow'd to any Proselyte, but only to each one *pro re nata*, and with regard to their present Circumstances, in order to enable them to get their Bread by their own Industry, according to such Trades and Callings as they have been educated in, or to assist them to begin and carry on any Lawful Employment.

## VIII.

THAT such Proselytes as are entirely disabled by Age, or other Infirmities, from getting their Livelihood, shall be Relieved preferably to all other.

## IX.

THAT none of the Proselytes that are come over within the space of one Year, and of whose former Behaviour the Society cannot be fully satisfied, shall receive any further Relief from them than what has been already order'd, until an account can be procured from those Places where such Proselytes have liv'd; and that all other Proselytes, who come over for the future, may have a Weekly Allowance not exceeding Five Shillings, if they want it, according to the Discretion of the Committee, until such time is out as is sufficient to get Certificates of their former Life and Conversation.

## X.

THAT all Petitions from the Proselytes to the Commissioners be in *English*.

## XI.

## XI.

‘ THAT all Proselytes, who shall receive any Bounty from the Commissioners, be strictly observant of their Morals, upon the Peril of being excluded from any future Allowance from them; particularly, that they resort to some place of Publick Worship every Lord’s Day; that they avoid Drunkenness, Uncleanliness, Unlawful Gaming, Swearing and Curseing; all disorderly Conversation, keeping of Ill-hours, or any other Offences against the Laws of the Land; and that a Note of their Lodgings be left with the Messengers of the Commissioners, that enquiry may be made of their Behaviour.

## XII.

‘ THAT all Proselytes, who shall apply to the Commissioners for Relief, be directed at the time of such Application, to draw up a Short Historical Account of their Conversion, and deliver the same to the Commissioners, or to whom they shall appoint.

## XIII.

‘ THAT no Proselyte whatsoever, shall be entitled to receive Relief from the Society before He or She has taken the Oaths to the Government, to be tender’d to them by such of the Commissioners as are Justices of the Peace; and this Tender to be made in the Presence of the Commissioners, at their General Meeting, or Committee.

## XIV.

‘ THAT when any Proselyte shall be put Apprentice, the Master do give an Obligation to the Secretary, or any one of the Commissioners, that he will teach him his Trade, and take care of him during the Time agreed for.

## XV.

‘ **T**HAT although in extraordinary Cases of  
‘ Sicknes, or after Death, an Allowance may  
‘ be given to pay Debts contracted by such  
‘ Sicknes, or Funeral Charges of any Prose-  
‘ lytes; yet no other Debts contracted by  
‘ Profelytes shall be paid after their Death.

**I**N the beginning of this Commission, the Commissioners laboured under very great Difficulties.

1. **T**HE number of Petitioners, amounting to above fourscore the first Month, was so large, and the Fund to supply them at first so small, that it was no easie Matter to proportion, according to each Petitioner’s real Wants and Merit, a reasonable Allowance to each one.

2. **A**MONGST so great a Number as crowded altogether at first, and applied for Relief, it was extreamly difficult to know each Person’s true Character, especially of those that were newly come over; and to find out who were sincere Converts, and who were false Pretenders: To this End, and for the better answering the Design of the Establishment, as well as for the greater Satisfaction of the Pious and Charitable Contributors, in Proces of Time the Commissionets resolved, by the means of two Secretaries for Foreign Correspondence, to advise from Time to Time with some of the most eminent Protestants abroad, to get a true Light into the Characters of such Profelytes as should come over for the future; and to Correspond upon the same account, with the Commissioners and Societies established in other Protestant Countries, for the

the Relief of Converts from the Church of  
Rome.

3. It was a great Burthen to the Society, in its Infancy, to find the whole Number of Proselytes who offered themselves, uncapable of getting any thing, immediately, towards their own Maintenance ; therefore, tho' Experience has evinced, that several of them have proved capable of earning a Livelihood, yet this was no ease in the first Distribution.

On this Account, the Commissioners were at great Pains to examine into the Dispositions of each of the Proselytes, that they might be the better able to employ their small Fund to the Relief of all that should be found deserving. And because it would not have answered their Intention to maintain any constant Pensioners, they disposed of as many as they could, that were capable of undertaking any sort of Business, in such Ways, as best suited with their Genius, Capacity, and Circumstances. And as it has been the constant Care of the Commissioners to put them in that way, they have spared no Pains for it, and have always made it their Business, to give as great an Encouragement, as their small Funds could allow, to those, who having any Talent, shew'd their Willingness to improve it, in order to be no more a Burthen to the Society.

4. BECAUSE Poor Ecclesiastick Proselytes, and other Poor Clergymen already abound, it was a Matter of no small Difficulty for the Society to know how rightly to dispose of the Numbers of that Sort who daily offered. But till the Commissioners could find Ways to provide for such Ecclesiasticks as already wear the Gown, they

they thought it expedient to forbid the Proselyte Clergy from putting on the Gown without leave not only obtained from the Ordinary, but also from the Commissioners ; by this means such of those Ecclesiasticks as are found capable of Undertaking any Business, or Teaching Languages, Writing, &c. are with more Ease Provided for and Subsisted by the Society, than if they put on the Gown, without some Assurance of being employ'd in the Ministerial Function.

5. But of all the Obstacles that have retarded the Commissioners in their Proceedings, none has appeared more puzzling than to find out and separate the Tares from the Wheat, the True Proselytes from the Cheats. In this Case, the detecting several false Pretenders sufficiently discovers, that the Care of the Society has been determined with no less Application towards this Point, than has already appeared in the preceding Articles. The cunning Artifices made use of to impose on the Commissioners, make it a matter of doubt, whether the Pope and his Emissaries may not be at the bottom of their Contrivances ; and whether that Church, which is very jealous of any thing that tends to diminish her Power, may not with the utmost Craft be forming Stratagemsto blow up the whole Proceedings. The Zeal which the Commissioners shewed to detect Scandalous Persons and False Pretenders, fill'd the Hearts of all those whose Hopes of gaining Money by crafty Designs were frustrated, with bitter Malice, both against the whole Society in general, and against some few Members of it in particular. When the weak Efforts of these wicked Adversaries, levell'd against

against the Society in general, proved vain and insignificant, the whole Force of their Invectives was discharged against some few of the Commissioners in particular ; but as this Attempt proved as vain as it was false and wicked, so it only animated the Zeal of the Commissioners to be more Circumspect and Cautious, how they gave credit to every Person, who came without good and sure Recommendations, to present himself to them as a Proselyte.

THE Society having in some measure surmounted these Difficulties, had Leisure to apply themselves more immediately to those matters which concerned the good Government of the Proselytes in general : Therefore the first thing that was judged expedient, was, to provide for their Instruction and Confirmation in the Protestant Religion. To this End a worthy Divine was appointed, and a Salary (tho' small, yet as much as the low Stock of the Society could afford) allowed him for instructing Proselytes, and examining such as on their first Pretences made Applications to the Board for Relief, with Directions at the same time to enquire into their Lives and Conversations here, and to give from time to time to the Society, and particularly to the Lords the Bishops and other Divines that are Members thereof, such an Account of his Proceedings herein, as should be demanded of him. Moreover, this Gentleman, jointly with the Secretaries for foreign Correspondence, has incumbent on him the Care of Learning from Abroad the several Characters of Converts coming from distant Countries.

THE Commissioners having thus far proceeded to take a general Care of the Souls of the Proselytes,

selites, thought it likewise convenient to provide some Means to relieve their Bodily Infirmities in case of Sickness: Therefore a worthy Physician, one of their own Body, offering his Advice *gratis*, an Apothecary was treated with, and brought in Proposals and Articles, which were agreed to by the Society, for administering of Physick at the Publick Charge, to such Proselytes as by the Direction of one of the Commissioners, or the Secretary, should be sent to him.

AND that nothing might be wanting to put the Proselytes in general in a way to maintain themselves, it was judged expedient to agree with a Master of the *English* Language, who having an annual Salary allowed for that Purpose, obliges himself to instruct all foreign Proselytes in the Tongue, that thereby they may be the better enabled to follow any Employment, be bound to, or serve *English* Masters, or be otherwise put in Condition of getting a Livelihood in the *British* Dominions.

THE annual Sum allowed by the Government being but 400*l.* this could never answer all the Designs of the Society; therefore to increase their Stock, they used all possible means to promote annual Subscriptions, as well amongst themselves as other Religious and Charitable Persons; and tho' great Difficulties have arisen, insomuch as to discourage several Persons, who could scarce hope that they were to be surmounted, yet with the Blessing of God, and the indefatigable Care of some Noble and Worthy Gentlemen, the Subscriptions have been begun and carried on with Success; and it appears by the Rolls, that the Sums that have been subscribed from the 30th *April* 1717, to the 30th *April*

1718,

1718. in order to be continued	<i>l. s. d.</i>
Yearly amount to	194 : 19 : 00

BESIDES these annual Subscriptions, there have been several Casual Benefactions, which in the last twelve Months amount to

22 : 2 : 00
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FOR which Benefactions, the Thanks of the Commissioners have been returned to the Person known, by the Hands of those who brought or reported them; and those Charitable Persons who have thought fit to conceal their Names, are hereby desired to accept of the Society's most grateful Acknowledgments.

FROM the State of the Treasurer's Accounts, at the close of the Year, it appears, that there has been paid into his Hands as follows; viz.

<i>l. s. d.</i>	
From the Government	400 : 0 : 0
Annual Subscriptions which the Treasurer has received and accounted for	294 : 14 : 6
Casual Benefactions	22 : 2 : 0

Sum Total 716 : 16 : 6

IT appears by the Journal of the Commissioners, that the Proselytes who have been assisted within this last Year, including those that have been bound Apprentices, and otherwise provided for, are in all 100.

OF which Number the Ecclesiasticks are—40.

AND those of the Laity— 60.

OUT of the whole Number, them that have been bound Apprentices at the Charge of the Society, are— 7.

AND provided for otherwise, so as to be no more a Burthen upon the Society, — 29.

THE Monies laid out upon the foregoing Accounts, including Salaries for Instructor, Clerk, Master of Language, Apothecary, &c. and other Expences relating to the Commission, from the 30th of April 1717, to the 30th of April 1718, amounts to—

AND there remains in the Hands of the Treasurer upon the account of the rest of the Year 1718.

l. s. d.

660 : 4 : 5

56 : 12 : 1

716 : 16 : 6

By what has been already said, it will sufficiently appear, that no Care has been wanting on the Part of the Commissioners, for establishing such a Foundation as may prove useful and lasting; but notwithstanding this good Economy on their Part, and that they have provided so many, by putting them in a way to provide for themselves; notwithstanding this, the Number of Proselytes increases so fast on their Hands, that without some Additional Supplies, it will be next to impossible to carry on this good Design.

IT WAS a prudent Foresight of this, that put the Commissioners on making Application to the Government, to have some Part of the Estates forfeited (for having been applied to Superstitious Uses) set apart for the Encouragement of the Protestant Religion as by Law established, and for the support of Converts from Popery; to which End the following Reasons were drawn up, in order to have them laid before the King and the Parliament.

HERE

HERE it may be proper to clear one Circumstance in the foregoing Account, viz. That the annual Subscriptions, according to Page 25, amount only to 194*l.* 19*s.* whereas it appears that the Treasurer has accounted for 294*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* received within the last twelve Months. The reason of which is, That the Treasurer has received for two Years Subscriptions from several of those who subscribed in the Year 1717.

REASONS humbly offer'd to Consideration, why a small Part of the Estates given to Superstitious Uses, and now forfeited to the Crown, may properly be applied to the Relief of such Persons as Renounce the Errors of the Church of Rome, to Embrace the Protestant Religion, as professed in the Church of England, and are thereby reduced to great Poverty.

## I.

THAT when a Provision is made for Relieving such Persons, it may encourage some of the *Romish* Communion, who are able to make great Discoveries of concealed Estates given to Superstitious Uses, to discver the same.

## II.

THAT till some Publick Provision is made for Proselytes from the Church of *Rome*, they must depend on Private Charity, already over-burthened, and by so far a Nuisance to the Publick.

## III.

THAT a Publick Provision for Proselytes will help to take off a Reproach of the Reformation in *Great Britain*, which has hitherto left all those, that quit the *Romish* Communion in a destitute Condition to starve, or when reduced to extream Necessity, to the miserable Hardship of returning to the Communion they had left.

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## IV.

## IV.

THAT as Equity makes it reasonable to Provide for the Wives and Children of Rebels out of Estates taken from Rebels; so a small Part of what is taken from Superstitious Uses may justly be apply'd to Pious Uses, in Relieving those, who, for the sake of a good Conscience, shall renounce their former Errors and Superstition.

THESE Reasons being considered, 'tis bumbly hoped, that some Portion of what shall arise from the Forfeiture of the Estates given to Superstitious Uses, may be applied to the Use herein mentioned, as being conceived of great Service to the Nation, and Honour and Advantage to our Holy Religion.

BUT notwithstanding his Majesty was graciously pleased to Countenance an Application of this Nature; and the Well-wishers to this Charity were in no small Hopes, for the Reasons before-mentioned, that some Allowance might be made out of a Fund rescued from Superstitious Uses, for recovering Votaries from that Superstition; it happened at the Juncture when it was proposed, that other Affairs of Importance to the Publick, made it necessary to Postpone the Consideration thereof till another Opportunity.

HOWEVER the Commissioners conceive at present some Hopes, that the Hearts of several Charitable and truly Pious Christians may, by the Blessing of God, be in time so opened towards the forwarding this Good Work, that a sufficient Maintenance may be rais'd to support many Proselytes; and that the Fund of the Society may be large enough to make a Provision according

ding to the Rank and Quality of Persons ; for, as it may be well presumed, that several Papists, of the first Rank for Piety and Learning (particularly within these Kingdoms) would embrace the Reformation as Established in *Great Britain*, were they not afraid of Starving ; so 'tis a matter worthy the Zeal of every Charitable Person to contribute towards so good a Work as this, which is likely to turn so many Hundreds, of all Conditions, from the Superstition and Error, which some of them are already heartily weary of, and would quit, could they have any prospect of Subsistence.

THE Means for encreasing the Society's Stock, by choosing as Commissioners, Persons of great Interest and Bounty, and daily adding to this Number such as are willing to contribute to so good an Undertaking, has proved none of the most inconsiderable, towards bringing the whole Undertaking to what it is at present advanced.

THEREFORE, pursuant to the Power vested in the Commissioners named in the Commission, they have chose, during these last Twelve Months, several Right Reverend Prelates, and other Honourable Persons, both Clergy and Laity, to be Members of the Society, jointly with themselves, whose Names in the Order they were admitted, are as follows ; *viz.*

THE Reverend Mr. Thorold.

*The Reverend Dr. Beauvoir.*

John Gunston, *Esq;*

Charles Greenwood, *Esq;*

Mr. Henry Newman.

*The Reverend Dr. Grene.*

*The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Sarum.*

William Bradshaigh, *Esq;*

*The Reverend Mr. Boehm.*

*The*

*The Reverend Dr. Baker.*  
*The Reverend Dr. Colenet.*  
*Thomas Blunden, Esq;*  
*Thomas Clendon, Esq;*  
*The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Ely.*  
*The Reverend Mr. Harris.*  
*Dr. Slare, M. D.*  
*Henry Nicholson, Esq;*  
*William Tillard, Esq;*  
*The Reverend Dr. Hayley.*  
*James Lowther, Esq;*  
*The Reverend Dr. Waddington.*  
*The Reverend Dr. Bradford.*  
*The Hon. Brigadier Stearne.*  
*James Smith, Esq;*  
*The Reverend Dr. Wickard, Dean of Winchester.*  
*The Reverend Dr. Kennet, Dean of Peterborough.*  
*The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Bristol.*  
*Sir Thomas Lowther, Bart.*  
*The Reverend Mr. Chatlain.*  
*The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Gloucester.*

HAVING in this ABSTRACT let the Reader into as clear and concise a View of the whole Proceedings of the Commissioners, as the Subject would admit of; nothing remains now, but to stir up in the Minds of Charitable and Well-disposed Christians, a Zeal for carrying on, and contributing towards this excellent Design; and sure in a Protestant Country, no Argument need be insisted on to incite an Imitation of that blessed Copy, which our Great Master and Saviour has left us, who spent his whole Life in Converting and Instructing those that labour'd under *Ignorance and Error*.

THE Reward for such Pious Zeal and Concern is great even in this Life; for he that Sows

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plenteously shall Reap plenteously, and shall receive Seven-fold: *Good Measure running over, shall Men give into his Bosom*, Luke vi. 38. But what are Temporal Blessings to the Glories of shining in an uncorruptible Kingdom, which he (and it might almost be said, he only) is entituled to, who extends his Compassion to the Souls and Bodies of his Fellow-Creatures.

Is it not Prudence? Is it not Wisdom in the highest Degree to dispose of Money so as to purchase an Everlasting Title and Eternal Estate; instead of laying it up where *Moth and Rust do corrupt, and Thieves break through and Steal?*

WHEN all Humane Stocks and Treasures fail, and Land ceases to bring forth its Encrease, *they that be wise shall shine as the Brightness of the Firmament; and they that turn many to Righteousness, as the Stars for ever and ever*, Dan. xii. 3.

F I N I S.





